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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/105,528	06/26/1998	NICHOLAS JOLYAN STANIFORT KNOWLES	CR9-98-062	5684

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EXAMINER

LE, UYEN T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2171

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/105,528

Applicant(s)  
Knowles

Examiner  
Uyen Le

Art Unit  
2171



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 9, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-8, 10-15, and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-8, 10-15, and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 20) ☐ Other:

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's arguments regarding Fintel (US 5,903,478) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that claim 1 recites "a subprocess for retrieving and displaying relationship information from said model when said selected element is a component of said model" and that Figure 181 of Fintel does not teach, suggest or disclose this subject matter. In response, the claimed relationship information merely reads on the fact that elements of the model shown in Figure 181 are related to one another since they form a decision matrix. Clearly, when an element is selected from the model, a subprocess for retrieving and displaying relationship information has to be present for the user to edit the relationships as shown in Figure 182.

Applicant argues that Figures 175-201 of Fintel do not show "a subprocess for enabling said user to select one or more relationships from said displayed relationship information". In response, the claimed feature merely reads on the fact that upon selection of the elements shown in the decision matrix, a user can edit the relationships as shown in Figure 182. Clearly, the relationship information has to be displayed in order to allow the user to select and edit.

2. Applicant presents no further argument regarding claims 8, 15. For all the reasons discussed above, rejection to claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-20 is maintained using the reference of record.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fintel et al (US 5,903,478).

Regarding claim 1, the claimed computer readable code for implementing a visually-oriented technique for navigating an object model is met by the fact that the system of Fintel allows displaying and navigating an architecture visual model including a plurality of objects (see the abstract, column 2, lines 15-44). The claimed sub process for displaying a browser merely reads on the fact that the system of Fintel includes user interfaces used to edit the model. The claimed sub process for retrieving and displaying a set of elements in said browser, said elements representing said object model is met when the system allows users to retrieve and display information such as customer, product (see Figure 181). The claimed sub process for enabling a user to select one of said elements, sub process for retrieving and displaying relationship information from said model when said selected element is a component of said model and sub process for enabling said user to select one or more relationships from said displayed relationship information are met when Fintel shows that the user can navigate and edit relationships (see Figures 175-201). Clearly, in order to edit relationships, all the claimed sub routines have to be present in the system taught by Fintel.

Regarding claim 7, Fintel shows a conventional browser (see Figures 194, 195).

Claims 8, 14 correspond respectively to a system for the computer program product of claims 1, 7, therefore are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 1, 7 above.

Claim 15 corresponds to a method for the computer program product of claim 1, therefore is rejected for the same reasons stated in claim 1 above.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-6, 10-13, 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fintel et al (US 5,903,478), in view of applicant's admitted prior art at pages 3-5, 25.

Regarding claims 3, 5, although Fintel does not explicitly show an action list, applicant admitted that techniques for performing action choices are well known in the art (see page 25, line 4). Since the browser in the system of Fintel is an interactive tool for developing an object model, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a sub process for presenting an action list in order to allow the user to navigate through possible actions with each element.

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Regarding claim 4, since relationships possess different characteristics, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include in the action list actions tailored to the selected one or more relationships.

Regarding claim 6, official notice is taken that it is well known in the art to filter an action list to limit the choices appropriate to each model. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include filtering the action list while implementing the code in order to limit the actions appropriate to each model in the system of Fintel.

Claims 10-13, 17-20 correspond respectively to a system and method for the computer program product of claims 3-6, therefore are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 3-6 above.

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tsai (US 6,038,566) teaches a method and apparatus for navigation of relational databases on distributed networks.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen T Le whose telephone number is 703-305-4134. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 305-9707. The fax phone numbers for

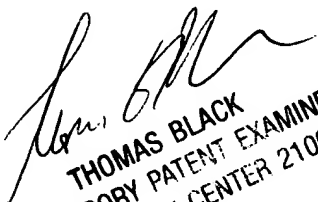
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the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 308-9051 for all communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-9000.

UL

November 28, 2001

  
THOMAS BLACK  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100